

Congratulations to the Winners of the Teen Writing Challenge

Grades 9—12

Honorable Mention—Bailey Jenkins

I Remember

I remember
The first time I entered a different world
Young, innocent eyes devouring pages of adventure
Other, older people marveled at me
She's reading chapter books this young?
I couldn't understand why other children didn't
It was incredible
A new excitement, a new place every time
And all I had to do was open a book
Why wouldn't everyone want to do so?
Soon enough, I escaped to these strange lands
A brief break from my life, a glimpse into someone else's
Soon enough, the mild curiosity of others my age turned mocking
Why do you read so much? Everyone hates reading, it's so weird
Soon enough, I saw the sympathetic smiles of teachers
That hated to discourage me, but needed me here and now
Instead of saving the world from itself in the future
So instead of losing myself in the world of someone else
I began to create my own
Daydreams became small drawing, notes to myself
Then ideas, plots, and more
And I found that I no longer cared if I was different
For as long as I had stories to carry around
I didn't care what happened in mine
I remember the first time I entered another world
And never truly left

